

The **BRAINWAVES** Club

Term 3 2021 | Tolkiens | Years 5 and 6

Venue: Forest Hill College

Term Fee: \$285

Ignite Your Imagination – It's Time to Innovate!

Calling all creative, innovative, visionary authors – we want YOU to join the Tolkiens on a voyage of discovery! Plumb the depths of your imagination to answer that age-old question – what does creativity look like? Lose yourself in the amazing stories and awesome artworks of those who have also pondered this big question; then inspire others by sharing your thinking through your writing. Revel in the opportunity to pick up tips and the advice of experts from across cultures and around the world to make your ideas accessible to your audience. It's going to be an expedition like no other!

Meeting 1 : Picture This – The Shape of Ideas

Focus: Writing and poetic devices

Where DO ideas come from? How do we explain them to other people who can't see the thoughts swirling through our minds? Grant Snider has written a whole book just on this topic – and hopes to inspire you to consider your answer to the same creative questions. We're going on a rollicking ride through the big wide world of poetic structures and devices to help communicate our responses, looking at how to combine visual images with our literary imagery – just like Grant! - for maximum impact on the imagination and memory of our audience.

Meeting 2: Political Incorrectness

Focus: Stories that teach

It's all about time! This session will see us wending our way back through the ages and exploring moral tales for children across the decades. But wait – meet Conrad, who sucked his thumb until the Scissor Man came to chop it off; Flying Robert, who played outside in a storm and was never seen again; and Harriet, whose kittens witnessed her setting fire to her apron while playing with matches. Terrifying! Are these really stories for children? They don't look much like stories we like to read to our little brothers and sisters and buddies these days – but they're a lot of fun to write, and very entertaining, while still imparting important messages to the audience. What might be important to teach children to do or not to do in this day and age? Twenty years ago? Fifty? A hundred? Choose a time period, familiarize yourself with its language and get gory with your pen to make your point to an audience of youngsters!

Meeting 3: Catch Your Reader By Surprise-
Focus : Turning points – It's time for things to change.

They say that if life throws a curveball at you, as an aspiring author you should yell 'Plot twist!' and move on (and then write about it!). But what exactly is a plot twist? Does it necessarily change everything about the direction a story is moving in? A story without plot twists would be deathly dull, but a story with too many can be difficult to follow. To find a balance, we're going to go back to basics with some old favourites and see if we can do better than the original authors at moving the story on in new and innovative ways - without compromising the true themes and characters. Are you up for the challenge of re-imagining what you thought you knew about the plots of these stories?

Meeting 4: A Picture Tells A Thousand Words: Artists and Photographers as Storytellers
Focus: Interpreting visual images.

It's time to play detective! Authors and artists are masters at leaving clues about their subjects in their works, whether they are embedded in detailed character descriptions or buried in the layers of a painted portrait. We will be magnifying key features of striking photographs by James Mollison and shining a light on works by the Archibald prize finalists to hone our powers of observation and interpretation before turning our hands to writing our own fluid, imaginative descriptions of people and places. Learn tips and tricks used by the experts to make your characters and settings come alive for your audience!

About the club leader - Layla Sacker

Layla has worn the hats of an early childhood, primary and secondary school teacher. She has a firm belief in the capacity of children to think outside the box and her creative writing students have done just that. She has facilitated creative writing workshops for students from all levels where poetry and drama are an important component for young writers. She uses technology and media as texts as well as traditional literature. Layla has a passion for art and science and has exhibited her own artworks.